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PREPARATION AND PREVENTION

Are Wisconsin residents at risk from the recent H5N1 bird flu outbreaks in Asia, Africa, and Europe?

No cases of the H5N1 bird flu virus have been found in the United States, so risk to Wisconsin residents is low.

Is it safe to eat chicken or other poultry?

Chicken and other poultry is safe to eat as long as it is cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat kills the bird flu virus.

What has the U.S. done to protect us against the importation of bird flu?

The U.S Federal Government has banned poultry and poultry products entering the U.S. from countries that have cases of bird flu.

What early signs might we see if the H5N1 bird flu is in the U.S.?

The first sign may be a high number of birds that are dying for no obvious reason. Federal and state officials are constantly monitoring for signs of bird flu in the U.S.

What is Wisconsin doing to protect us from bird flu?

Wisconsin is testing and monitoring wild and domestic birds for signs of the bird flu virus.

What can farmers do to protect their flock from bird flu?

Follow some basic protective measures:

- Watch your flocks for signs of the disease.
- Keep your flock away from wild birds.
- Keep all new birds away from your flock for at least one week—until you know that the new birds are healthy and will not infect your current flock with any diseases.
- Wash all equipment before and after use.
- Don't share equipment with other farmers.
- Limit access on and off your property.

Should travelers to areas with bird flu outbreaks take any special safety measures? Check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the most updated information about the bird flu situation in other countries. Follow the CDC's *Travel Health Precautions* (www.cdc.gov/travel/) for steps to take before, during, and after travel.

What general precautions should travelers take if visiting an area with a bird flu outbreak?

Avoid live bird and poultry markets. Make sure any poultry you eat is cooked to its proper internal temperature (165 degrees Fahrenheit). Wash your hands with soap and water regularly, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Is the media overstating the potential danger of bird flu? Bird flu is a danger to domestic and wild birds. The possibility that bird flu can change to become a new pandemic flu virus that affects humans around the world should be taken seriously.